

G3ZME
G6ZME

www.TDARS.org.uk

FOUNDED 1969

www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

May-June 2022

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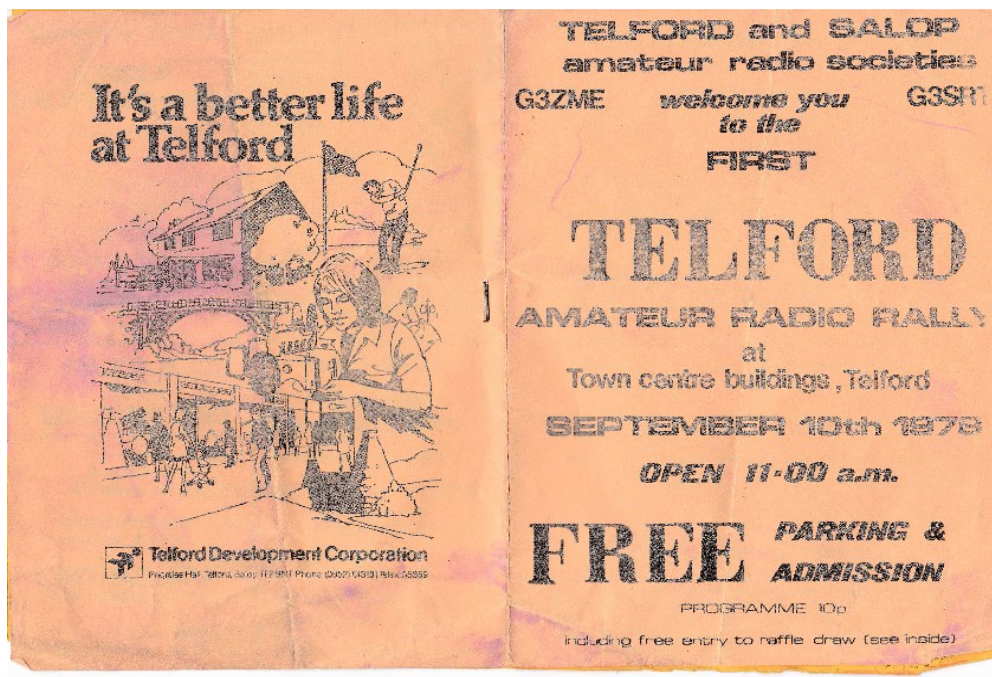
***For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Don M0TBQ.
For “Beyond Exams” scheme (Club or Individual) —enquiries to Graham G7LMF
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
Radio Amateur Exams- Latest: Contact Graham G7LMF training@tdars.org.uk***

VILLAGE HALL, MALTHOUSE BANK, LITTLE WENLOCK, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE. TF6 5BG

Editorial

Arrangements are taking shape for the next Telford HamFest at Harper Adams University campus, near Newport. The dates for your diary are the weekend of 3-4 September. This will be our third visit to this excellent venue, and our 44th (yes—44th) radio rally since the first one in September 1978, organised jointly at that time by Salop and Telford radio clubs. It was sponsored by TDC (Telford Development Corporation) and held in the newly built Telford Town Centre. Since there was no Sunday Trading in those days (except for essential services, like pharmacists, newsagents), all the exhibitors' stands were set up in the indoor malls area. Entrance and parking charges were zilch. There were over 40 stands, with historic names such as B Bamber, JMG Elec., Stephens James, Lowe Elec., W H Westlake, Radiotronic Services, C&C Crystals and Thanet Electronics. Not bad for starters! The 8 page programme featured a full layout map and lists of exhibitors, plus seven advert insertions. Visitors paid just 10p for this publication which included a free entry for a raffle draw. Remember—there was NO entrance charge. Even more amazing was the range of additional attractions: A 'flea Market' table cost just £1 per hour to hire. Outside "entertainments" included a free Park-and-Ride coach service to the main Ironbridge Gorge Museum site, Police Dogs demonstration, 9th Signal Squadron Territorial Army equipment demonstration, Local area Horse & Trap Rides, a series of Lyons' Club amusements in the car park, Fire Service Engine display and a Kiddies' Play Castle. Not forgetting a St John's Ambulance parked outside for any unfortunate eventuality! HOW DID WE DO ALL THAT ?

MIV



Telfordhams

TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY : 2022-23

CHAIRMAN: Simon Bird G0UFE (telfordslivewire@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01952 401018)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (ukv@ukv.me.uk Tel:01952 255416)

SECRETARY: John Humphreys M0JZH (m0jzh@yahoo.co.uk Tel:07824 737716)

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PUBLICITY/WEBMASTER : Dave G0CER (davekh@gmail.com)

Committee: Graham G7LMF; Ian M0IRP; Village Hall Committee Liaison officer Martin 2E0TRO; QSL Manager Paul M0PNN; Assist Curator: Kevin G8UPF; Trophies/Certs: Martyn G3UKV.

Qtc: News & Information



TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING HELD NORMALLY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL WITH SOME ONLINE (Webex) STREAMING OF APPROPRIATE PRESENTATIONS: PLEASE CHECK FRONT PAGE LISTING FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS.

Please note: A current membership card may be required to borrow TDARS equipment. Please return borrowed equipment promptly .

The TDARS AGM took place at the end of March, at our LWVH HQ. There was the best turnout (24) since pre-Covid days, plus a few online members. The usual format was followed, and general satisfaction that the worst of the past 2+ years problems are probably behind us. Then followed the election of 2022-23 Committee and volunteers, with just one change in the form of Kevin G8UPF who is now the assistant curator—see page 2 listing. It was great then for Simon (G0UFE, Chairman) to actually present real trophies to real people.



**Paul M0PNN
Construction Trophy
(QO-100 system)**



**Neil M1NMG
Beginner's Construction
Trophy. (antenna)**



**Heather M0HMO
Jack Hassall Trophy
(Services over past year)**



**Tony M0TZM
Top: G3IMP Trophy
For Operating on-air
in the spirit of A.R.
Bottom: Under-a-Fiver
Construction Trophy
(Keyer case)**

The Kippure Trophy [=wooden spoon] went to a certain person who shall be nameless, but got his dates totally confused. This trophy has been *speedily* returned to its secure place in a locked cabinet.

Thanks to Don M0TBQ for the photos.



As you can see from the Front Page, quite a few of our meetings and activities take place outside of our meeting room in LWVH. This includes **3 evenings of "DF Hunts"**, often referred to as "Foxhunts". These will take place on Wednesdays May 11, June 8 and July 20th. Start time 7:30pm at LWVH (or wherever you want to start from in Little Wenlock). Frequency 144.600MHz FM mode. Martin is "The Fox" and he transmits every 10 minutes or so, often giving voice clues which may be cryptic or even pure fiction. It's all good fun, and good exercise too if you take an hour or more to track him

down. (Voice of experience. . .) There are five special 2 element beams in the attic area, which have built-in attenuators, which are available for members to borrow. They need a battery to work, and a little practice to use successfully. Also, they have a BNC connector, so you may need an adaptor to connect to a typical modern handheld (eg SMA). I would recommend that you borrow one of these a week (or more) in advance of the above dates to get the desired results—and please don't transmit into the 'unit', as that will kill the single device inside. A 'handy' held close to the body is a simple alternative commonly used.



The International Marconi Day—23 April 2022

From John M0JZH, who was the main organiser of this event:-

“Thank you to all who turned up at the event this weekend, it was very, very good, and looking as to the contacts it was truly amazing. Thank you anyway, and now to start to plan for next year !!! “

John has circulated the following lists of countries worked:

Saturday:

GC3ZME/P	Country	Contacts
	US	49
	Canada	11
	Argentina	4
	Bulgaria	2
	Italy	2
	Barbados	2
	Trinidad & Tobago	2
	Croatia	1
	Switzerland	1
	Jamaica	1
	Portugal	1
	Brazil	1
	Dominican Republic	1
	Azores	1

Sunday:

GB8MD	Country	Contacts
	England	63
	US	44
	Australia	24
	Italy	18
	Wales	10
	Spain	9
	Austria	8
	UK Special Call	8
	Northern Ireland	8
	Scotland	6
	Brazil	6
	France	5
	Slovenia	5
	Poland	4
	Romania	4
	Argentina	4
	Sardinia	3
	Eire	3
	Netherlands	3
	Canada	3
	Germany	2
	Bulgaria	2
	Czech Republic	2
	Belgium	2
	Russia	2
	Hungary	2
	Ecuador	2
	Costa Rica	1
	Tenerife	1
	Isle of Man	1
	Canaries	1
	Antigua and Barbuda	1
	Belarus	1
	Falkland Islands	1
	Columbia	1
	Portugal	1
	St Kitts and Nevis	1
	Belize	1
	Dominican Republic	1

LOTS OF PICCIES FOLLOW

Thank you to Neil G1NMG for the majority of those shown here:



Part of Camp TDARS



Approach to the Marconi Cottages



G0UFE on the mic.

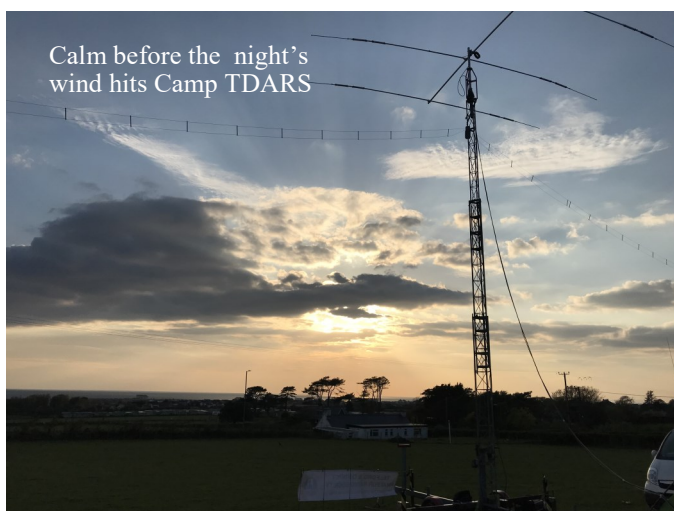




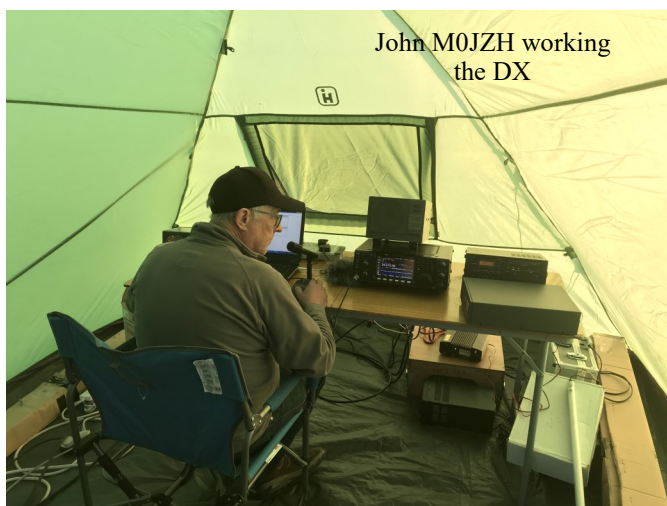
... And this goes here



Up She goes ...



Calm before the night's
wind hits Camp TDARS



John M0JZH working
the DX



...It's been A Hard Day's Night
(The Beatles)

Last Words ...

"Well, what can I say!? What a fab weekend of radio. I learnt so much and also finding things I want to do, such as more HF and satellite.

We didn't even get blown away but, boy was it close! Thank you for all who arranged this. The work put in by the team was amazing." (Neil M1NMG)

"Indeed, what a blast! Thanks for making this happen Chaps.

Looking forward to future outdoor events, though I may bring longer tent pegs next time." (Tony M0TZM)

Thanks for Newsletter input this time:

**John G4IRN, Don M0TBQ, John M0JZH, Neil M1NMG,
Robert GW6GBY, Peter G4URT, Ken G3YKI, Paul G8AQA**
Next edition July/August 2022

Can YOU contribute something?— Results in a better Newsletter !

Contest Report: UK & EI DX CW Contest *by John G4IRN*

This last weekend was the United Kingdom & Ireland Contest Club (UKEI) annual [HF CW DX Contest](#). This is a 24 hour event will entry categories for low/medium or high power; there is an 'overlay' category for those with a single-element antenna, so entering this contest with a modest station is very feasible. The aim of these contests is to promote contacts between stations in the U.K. and Ireland (UK/EI) and stations in the rest of the world (DX). There are long periods in the 24 hours when DX stations cannot work UK/EI stations because there is no propagation, **so all entrants can work all other entrants** for QSO points and multipliers. However a good score for DX Stations will only be achieved by working sufficient numbers of UK and EI stations and UK/EI district code multipliers. I only heard one other SY (Shrewsbury) station on all weekend, so it was quite sought after! (I didn't hear any TF).

During the previous week I had just put up a 2 element HexBeam for 20m - 10m, albeit at only 35ft height; however my station is on a hill so has a good take-off to the North America and Asia, the main areas of DX population. I was keen to see how the antenna would perform in the contest and set out to enter the 24h high power section. My antennas for 40m and 80m are both ground mounted verticals.

The contest kicked off at 12z (1pm local) and it didn't take long for me to establish that conditions were absolutely rubbish! There had been previous strong geomagnetic activity and at the start of the contest, 10m and 15m were almost dead. It's a pity, in the previous week I'd been working North American stations late into the evening on both these bands, but no sign of that over the weekend. I soon changed my plan and opted for the 12 hour section.

A feature of this contest is that double points are obtained by UK/EI stations for QSOs outside Europe; also there are double points for QSOs on 80m and 40m and double points for QSOs between 01:00z and 04:49z, so this helped form my operating strategy - I decided to play overnight (I had about 3 hours sleep from 10pm) and target DX contacts on the lower bands.

In summary, QSO totals in the 12 hours were disappointing due to the band conditions but the stats are as follows:

Band	No. QSOs	UKEI Dis- tricts	DXCC Countries
80	136	27	29
40	222	20	37
20	202	15	38
15	54	7	22
10	7	4	3

TOTAL: 621 QSOs

A visual display on the QSOs overlaid on a map is quite interesting but doesn't convey how rubbish the HF band conditions were!



Although it was slow going at times it was a lot of fun. The SSB contest is on **22nd-23rd October** so for those who prefer shouting into the radio, then this is a great opportunity to dip your toes into the contesting water.

It's not necessarily about the winning, but a great opportunity to work some DX.

Comment from Peter G4URT: “ *Good show, albeit not so good conds. Re your comment at the end - 'It's not necessarily about the winning but a great opportunity to work some DX'.*—

Too true. Nowadays it seems that unless you have a 'super station' or work restricted you have very little chance of winning. Best to approach contests with the following mind set - 1) Win at all costs 2) Do the best you can under the circumstances but at least have some fun or 3) work some DX. That's why I look forward to the ARI and ARRL EME contests - I see what's going on and work stations I've never worked before or those that are DX. However, when it comes to putting an entry in I normally can't be a***d!!!

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## Yet more vintage antics from Criggion By Robert GW6GBY

Firstly, I would like to apologies for not attending the club nights for some time and forgetting the 80m Nets run by Martyn Mondays and Friday. I have too much going on, partly my own fault and partly present personal circumstances.



Recently I had “trial by fire” running a special event station GB80LAN for RAFARS at RAF Cosford.1st March to 28th March 2022.

**Avro Lancaster 1st Operational Sortie - 80th Anniversary.**  
On 2nd March 1942 the 1st operational sortie of the Avro Lancaster took off from RAF Waddington. The mission was to lay naval mines in Heligoland Bight.

Not being a regular “pile-up pilot” I found it very challenging dealing with hundreds of contacts, many from distant countries, many with ‘foreign tongues’, who don’t like queueing as we do and seem to have lots more power. There were almost 3000 contacts over the month of April from 4 participating RAF Stations that operated the special event.

During my 13 years service in the Royal Air Force I was lucky enough to spend 4 years as a System Engineer at 81SU Bampton Castle, at the time the RAF's premier HF communication system. Called STCICS, (Strike Command Integrated Communications System) . STCICS comprised 4 sites, 2 transmitter and receiver sites (in Tx/Rx pairs) .They were located and spaced geographically to maximise performance, being 50+ miles between transmit and receive locations. The transmitters were RACAL as well, 10KW running USB as do most military nets. Three types of antennas were employed for the various link lengths. All the control was remote and the Tx sites manned 5 days a week, 8 till 4 o'clock only. The general STCICS concept was that all RAF flying stations (plus a few select others) that needed access to "Good HF comms" could be extended such services without having their own on-site facilities. The out-stations (50+) were known as Control Authorities. The rub of this story was that each receiver site was equipped with 35 Racal RA1772 receivers to support 30 audio channels (plus 5 spare). A few weeks ago I acquired a 1772 (almost my sole life's ambition) without paying a king's ransom for it. They are cracking good receivers and don't quite get the boat anchor classification. However if they ever go wrong...look out. they are tricky to fix.



RA1772 which replace (would you believe) RA1



RA1772 which replace (would you believe) RA17's



**R&S SK050 500W Transmitter (right of photo)  
with EHT PSU missing**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April I popped up to Blackppol in my EV; I had long standing (from last year) commitment to help run the RAFARS Stall at the Norbreck Castle Hotel (NARSA) . Alas it conflicted with the TDARS Marco ni event the previous day, which I was hoping to attend and help out with. I understand the NARSA event attendance was a about 20% down on its usual numbers. Some of the stall holders picked up £60 parking charges via an administrative blunder. I seem to have escaped (so far), but fortunately the charges were nullified for those who were zapped. Having a few odd broadcast type (AM) transmitter at Criggion, I thought it would be fun to join both VMARS and the newly formed AM ARS. (hence my over commitment). The AMARS club runs a net presently manned by myself for the moment, with the call-sign GC5AMS (being in Wales). The AM net runs Sunday mornings on 3625KHz if you want to give us/me a call.

One of my big AM transmitters used on the AM net developed a EHT fault which took some time to track down. The culprit turned out to be a faulty selenium rectifier stick, (of which there are 16). I had to take one to bits to see what

the failure mode was (as one must). Below are a few photos of the transmitter, the replacement rectifier (diodes), the old rectifier stacks and the “tin-opened” contents of the stack. The failure was caused by a spot-weld coming adrift.

I seem to be in a perpetual mode of fixing duff kit and cutting grass at this time of the year !

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## *The Chiltern DX Club AGM*—By John G4IRN

I attended the Chiltern DX Club AGM and convention in Loughborough last weekend. Despite it's 'Chiltern' name, CDXC is a UK wide group of about 800 members with an interest in HF DX'ing and contesting, most of whom are UK based but there are quite a sizeable number of overseas members too. The club was founded in the 1980's by a small group of keen HF DXers based around the Chiltern area and has gone from strength to strength ever since.

It was the first in-person meeting for three years so it was great to catch up with everyone. After the short AGM there were several lectures and the day concluded with a dinner and drinks back in the bar.

The first presentation was over Zoom, VE3LYC talking about the forthcoming DXpedition to Bouvet Island - this will be the most costly and possibly most dangerous DXpedition ever. Further 'in-person' presentations were given on LF bands circle arrays for reception, common mode chokes and OCF dipole designs, practical use of VNAs and then an impromptu talk by myself talking about setting up a remote station.

Overall it was a great day and evening and good to catch up with old friends after so long.

# CDXC

The UK DX Foundation

Photo: Ken G3YKI



**A rather damp start for Paul G8AQA setting up G3Z for the RSGB 10 GHz Trophy contest on Sun. 8th May, on the summit of Brown Clee IO82QL**  
**Accompanied by Heather M0HMO, Martyn G3UKV, Ken G3YKI and Kevin G8UPF.**  
**In the 6 hours, 20 QSOs were completed, but as it clashed with several other contests, activity was low, and the mist was like a wet blanket for this microwave band**

**Paul G8AQA and Heather M0HMO** have been regularly visiting the Spaceguard Centre (also known as The National Near Earth Objects Information Centre') near Knighton in Powys. (LD7 1LW).

A current massive project is "DRAX" which is the installation of a 24" Schmidt camera weighing 7.5 tons and standing about 4 metres high. Paul and Heather have been actively involved in its long term installation, as shown below :

